

As part of a kick-off to National Hunger Action and Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur participated in a community forum held by the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, Crossroads Shelter and Volunteers of America at the Crossroads Homeless Shelter in Sandusky, Ohio on September 2, 2010.

The forum showcased the successful Agricultural Clearance Program (ACP), which allows regional food banks to purchase fruits and vegetables at production cost from Ohio farmers and growers.

Not only does this ensure that Ohio families have a source of nutritious Ohio-grown, Ohio-raised and Ohio-produced food, it prevents waste and reduces losses for Ohio farmers and growers.

Last year, 26.6 million pounds of food were acquired and distributed through the ACP to Ohioans at risk of hunger.

Later, leaders from the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks updated Congresswoman Kaptur about their continued efforts to fight and prevent hunger in Ohio as the need continues to rise.

Ohio ranks third in the nation for the percentage of children under the age of five with limited or intermittent access to nutritionally adequate, safe and acceptable food, and nearly one-quarter of households in our region suffer from this form of food insecurity.

The Ohio Association for Second Harvest Foodbanks represents 12 of Ohio's Feeding America Foodbanks that distribute food and grocery items to over 3,000 member charities in Ohio's 88 counties.